

S T A T U T E S

O F T H E

M E D I C A L S O C I E T Y

O F

L O N D O N

I N S T I T U T E D

M D C C L X X I I I

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Wellcome Library

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

NOTHING has contributed more to the advancement of science, than the establishment of literary societies. These excite a generous ardour in liberal minds, and raise even envy itself into useful emulation.

The principal part of our knowledge must be ever derived from comparing our own observations with those of others. In this view the utility of societies, which afford an opportunity for the mutual communication of our thoughts, must be sufficiently apparent. Books cannot solve all our difficulties, nor will the observations made in other ages and climates, hold always true in our own.

The intention of this society is to give practitioners in medicine frequent opportunities of meeting together, and conferring with each other, concerning any difficult or uncommon cases which may have occurred; or communicating any new discoveries in medicine which have been made, either at home or abroad.

Papers, which tend to the advancement of the science, will be received by the society, and such as may be deemed worthy of publication, carefully preserved, until sufficient matter for a volume shall be collected.

In order to excite practitioners to bring those talents to light, which would otherwise lie buried and useless to the community, the society have resolved to hold forth honorary rewards to those who shall improve the medical art: and although this has not been hitherto attempted in these kingdoms, yet they hope that their example may appear not altogether unworthy of imitation.

The society has likewise founded a medical library, that its members may obtain an easy access to the best ancient and modern authors.

Animated with these designs, the society submit their plan to the consideration of the faculty in general, whose assistance is requested, in order to render it extensively beneficial to mankind.

CHAPTER I.

Of the different Branches of the Society, and the Qualifications of its Members.

1. **T**HE society shall consist of physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, divided into fellows, corresponding members, and candidates.

2. The number of fellows shall be restricted to thirty in each branch of the profession,

fession, who alone shall direct the affairs of the society, and be eligible into any office.

3. No person shall be eligible as a fellow, or candidate of this society, unless settled in business in the city of London, or within seven miles thereof.

4. No physician shall be eligible as a fellow, who does not produce a diploma, and testimonials of having studied medicine regularly in some university, unless he is a member of the college of physicians of London.

5. No surgeon shall be eligible as a fellow, who has not been approved of by the court of examining surgeons.

6. As soon as any one of the three classes of which the society consists, shall have thirty fellows, those persons who may desire to become members of the society, can be admitted only on the list of candidates.

7. These candidates shall enjoy all the privileges of fellows, except that of voting in any question which may come before the society.

8. They shall pay the same fine on admission, and the same annual subscription with the fellows : But when elected into the list of fellows, they shall not be required to pay a second admission fine.

9. When any vacancy shall happen in the list of fellows, it shall be filled up by ballot

from the candidates of that distinct branch of the society in which such vacancy occurred.

10. This election shall be always made at one of the two general meetings of the society, hereafter to be named.

11. No person shall be eligible as a corresponding member who resides within seven miles of London. Nor shall any person be elected on that list, who has not delivered a memoir to the society, which has received its approbation.

12. If any person who has been elected a corresponding member, shall come to reside in or within seven miles of London, he shall, on paying his admission fine, and signing the obligation, be admitted a fellow, if there should be a vacancy in the list on which he must stand. But if the list should be full, or any candidate on it, he shall be admitted a candidate without farther ballot.

13. No proprietor of any empirical nostrum shall be eligible into this society.

CHAPTER II.

Of the Election and Admission of Members.

1. Every person who desires to be admitted a member of the society, shall be recommended by three or more fellows on their personal

personal knowledge, or from his being]
known to them by his works.

2. In the recommendation, the profession and place of abode of the person proposed for election shall be specified.

3. The recommendation shall be delivered to one of the secretaries, and first read in the council, that they may be satisfied that the person recommended is desirous of becoming a member, has been informed of the regulations of the society, and is eligible according to its statutes.

4. The recommendation shall then be read at the ensuing meeting of the society, and directed to be hung up in the common meeting room for two succeeding ordinary meetings.

5. An abstract of it, with the names of those who recommended the candidate, shall be inserted in the books of the society, and read at each of these meetings.

6. On the last of these meetings the votes shall be taken by ballot, if twelve fellows of the society be then present.

7. If two-thirds of the number of the fellows present ballot in favour of the candidate, he shall be declared duly elected.

8. If it appear upon the ballot, that the person proposed cannot be admitted a mem-

ber, no notice thereof shall be taken in the minutes.

9. The admission of every person who shall be chosen a fellow or candidate, shall be at some ordinary meeting, when, after he has paid his admission fine, he shall sign the following obligation :

“ We whose names are hereunto subscribed,
 “ promise that we will endeavour to promote
 “ the honour, and observe the regulations
 “ of the Medical Society of London, as
 “ long as we shall continue members there-
 “ of.”

10. The president shall then take him by the hand saying,

“ By the authority delegated to me by the
 “ Medical Society of London, I admit you a
 “ fellow [or candidate] thereof.”

11. Any person refusing to sign the obligation, shall not be received as a member of the society.

CHAPTER III.

Of the Payment of Admission Fines, Annual Contributions, &c.

1. Every person who shall be elected a fellow or candidate of this society shall, before his admission, pay the sum of two guineas.

2. If

2. If any person shall neglect to pay his admission fine within two months after being elected a fellow or candidate, unless prevented by illness, or any other unavoidable accident, his election shall be void, and he shall be rendered incapable of being proposed again for the space of one year.

3. Every fellow or candidate, as long as he continues a member, shall pay to the society the annual sum of one guinea.

4. No person shall have a vote in the society if six months in arrear.

5. If any member shall neglect the payment of the annual contribution for two years, he shall, at the end of two months after notice has been given him by the secretary, be liable to expulsion from the society.

6. If any member shall advance to the society the sum of ten guineas above his admission fine, and all arrears then due, he shall be exempted from all annual payments for the future.

7. No fine on admission or annual contribution is expected from corresponding members.

CHAPTER IV.

Of the Officers, Council and Committees.

1. For the purpose of conducting with regularity the affairs of the society, there shall be

be elected annually, a president, a treasurer, a librarian, three secretaries, a council, and three committees.

2. This election shall be by ballot on the first of the two general meetings.

3. Particular summonses shall be sent to every fellow, together with two printed lists, at least three days before the time of election.

4. One of these lists shall contain the name of every member, with marks affixed, shewing what office he has formerly held or now holds in the society.

5. Such members likewise as are not eligible to any office, or to that only which they may hold at the time of election, shall be respectively distinguished, to the end that no person may throw away his vote.

6. The second balloting list shall have the offices and places printed, with blank spaces left for the insertion of the names of those persons who shall be thought best qualified to fill them.

7. Every fellow who attends, shall first deliver his name to one of the secretaries attending the ballot, and afterwards put either the printed list filled up, or a written one if he chuses it, into the balloting glass.

8. The ballot shall be opened at the hour of one, and closed half an hour past two in the afternoon, after which it shall be examined

amined by the secretaries of the society, together with two scrutineers of the members present, drawn by lot by the president.

9. Should any list contain more names to fill up any office, than the fellow had a right to insert; the irregular part only of such list shall be set aside, and the remaining part of it be taken as if no such mistake had existed.

10. No person shall be eligible to any office, who shall be six months in arrear to the society when the lists are ordered to be printed, which shall be done by the council, on the eighth day before the election.

11. In this election if any doubt or difficulty arise, in relation to the persons who shall have the majority of voices, or to the manner of voting, or whenever there shall be an equality of voices in favour of different fellows, the same shall be determined by the majority of the council of the preceding year then present.

12. If any vacancies happen in the intervals of the anniversary election, they shall be filled up in the manner above specified.

13. No person shall remain in any office, or place in the council, longer than three years. Nothing in this rule however, shall preclude any member, who has enjoyed one office for the limited space of time, from being elected to another.

CHAPTER V.

Of the President.

1. The president, when present, shall take the chair at all meetings of the society. He shall regulate all debates, and prevent any from being prosecuted upon trivial subjects. He shall state and put all questions, according to the intention of the movers. He shall summon all extraordinary meetings of the society, and enforce the execution of their statutes.

2. In the absence of the president, the treasurer, and in his absence the librarian, shall preside in the society; and in their absence, the senior member of the council or fellow of the society who is present, shall take the chair for that meeting.

3. All members shall pay implicit obedience to the president in the execution of his office.

4. The president shall only vote when the suffrages are equal.

5. The president whilst in the chair shall be always covered, except when addressing himself to the whole society.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the Treasurer.

1. The money belonging to the society shall be kept by the treasurer.

2. He shall keep a regular account of all receipts and disbursements; which shall be audited by the council at their meetings, immediately preceding the two general meetings of the society.

3. Every sum of money, payable for the use of the society, of six pounds or under, shall be paid by order of the council, signed by the president and one of the secretaries; and if the sum exceed six pounds, it shall not be paid without an order from the society.

4. Whenever the council, or any five members of the society, desire to see the treasurer's accounts, he shall produce them, and be at all times ready to pay to the society any balance which may be in his hands.

CHAPTER VII.

Of the Librarian and Library.

1. The books shall be properly arranged, and each volume distinctly numbered. An alphabetical catalogue shall be kept of all the printed books, expressing the edition, place where

where printed, date, size, price, and number as it stands in the library. A separate catalogue shall be kept of the manuscripts, ranged under proper heads. These catalogues shall be always open in the library for the inspection of every member.

2. A paper shall be kept, wherein, against each member's name, the number of any book taken by him from the library, and the time when, shall be marked; and as soon as returned, a line shall be drawn through the number, in the presence of the person who brings the book.

3. A printed paper shall be affixed to the inside of each volume, containing the name of the society, the number of the book, and an abstract of the laws relative to the receiving and returning of books; and if such book were presented to the society, the donor's name shall be subscribed by the librarian.

4. The library shall be always open on Monday and Friday, between the hours of ten and twelve, when all books shall be sent for and returned to the library.

5. Any member shall have the liberty at these times of visiting the library, and reading and taking extracts from such books or manuscripts, as he has previously applied for to the librarian or his deputy.

6. Every

6. Every member sending for a book shall write down the title, signing and directing it To the librarian of the Medical Society of London.

7. If a book when sent for, be in the possession of another member, an answer shall be returned, containing the name of the person who has it, and the time when it was taken out of the library.

8. No member shall have more than two volumes at a time in his possession.

9. No member shall detain a pamphlet or duodecimo above one week ; an octavo two weeks ; a quarto three weeks ; and a folio four weeks ; after which period he shall be liable to a penalty of one, two, three, or four shillings, in proportion to its size, for each week he shall detain it, provided such penalty exceed not the value affixed to the book by the council.

10. No manuscript shall be taken out of the library, without a written permission from the council.

11. All new publications shall remain in the library for the space of one, two, three, or four weeks, in proportion to their size, that the members may have an opportunity of inspecting them.

12. A member who shall lose, or in any way injure, a book belonging to the society, shall

shall pay the full value, together with such fine as the council as shall think proper.

13. No member, the librarian or his deputy excepted, shall take down any book from its place.

14. All books shall be returned before the general meeting in January, that the librarian on entering into his office, may see whether any are wanting. Every person neglecting to return a book at that time, shall forfeit half of its value.

15. No books shall be purchased for the use of the society, but such as treat of physical subjects.

16. As expending the money of the society properly is of the utmost consequence, the recommendation to purchase any book, shall be signed by three members, and first read in the council, and afterwards on two successive nights in the society.

17. For any book above three guineas in value, ten fellows; and above ten guineas, twenty fellows must be present before a ballot can be taken.

18. No book shall be purchased unless two-thirds of the members present ballot in its favour.

C H A P T E R VIII.

Of the Secretaries.

1. All papers intended for the use of the society, shall be transmitted to one of the secretaries, who shall deliver them to the committee, to whose inspection they are referred by the laws of the society.

2. The secretaries shall take an exact account of all the transactions of the society.

3. They shall read the minutes of the former meeting, and also any papers which have been referred to the society by the committees.

4. They shall preserve carefully the books relative to the transactions of the society, and also all papers committed to their charge. These they shall arrange in proper order, and have ready for the inspection of the society at all meetings.

5. They shall be exact in marking the time when any paper is delivered to them, that no person may be robbed of the title to a new thought or discovery.

6. One of the secretaries shall, immediately after every election of a member, send notice thereof to the person elected, with a copy of the law concerning the admission of members.

7. Upon the election of any corresponding member, a letter shall be sent him by one

of the secretaries, informing him of the same, and acquainting him, that the society hope he will, from time to time, favour them with an account of such matters as may come within his knowledge, that may tend to the elucidation or improvement of any of the branches of medicine.

C H A P T E R IX.

Of the Council.

1. The council shall consist of the officers of the society, with three physicians, three surgeons, and three apothecaries, elected by the society.

2. The council shall chuse a chairman and secretary out of their own members.

3. The council shall meet on Tuesdays alternately with the society, and have a power of adjourning themselves to any future day at pleasure, giving written notice of such adjournment to every member.

4. An extraordinary meeting of the council may be held at any time, by an order of the president of the society; one of the secretaries giving notice of the meeting to every member.

5. On the ordinary nights of meeting, three members shall be empowered to transact business. But at other times, the presence of five members shall be requisite.

6. All

6. All transactions of the society, the reading medical papers alone excepted, shall previously pass through the council.

7. The council shall have no power to make new regulations, but shall always refer them to the general meetings of the society appointed for that purpose.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Committees.

1. There shall be three committees, consisting of five fellows in each, to read and prepare for the inspection of the society, all such medical dissertations and papers, as shall be delivered to them.

2. The first shall consist of physicians, to whom shall be referred all memoirs, &c. relating to the theory and practice of physic.

3. The second shall consist of surgeons, to whom shall be committed all papers concerning anatomy and surgery.

4. The third shall consist of apothecaries and chymists, to whom shall be delivered all dissertations on pharmacy, chymistry, and drugs.

5. These committees shall meet every Tuesday at the hour of six in the evening.

6. They shall chuse a chairman and secretary from their own number, and in their

absence, any member present may be chosen to officiate for that meeting.

7. Each committee shall record the minutes of their proceedings in a book set apart for that purpose, which shall be read to the society at their next meeting if required.

8. These committees shall lay before the society, such memoirs, papers, &c. as they may judge worthy of communication; and no dissertation shall be read before the society, until it shall have passed through the committee to which it properly belongs.

9. These committees shall have a power to suppress the whole, or any part of a paper, which they may judge improper to be laid before the society, previously acquainting the author or his correspondent therewith.

10. The particular time at which any paper has been presented to them shall be marked upon it by the secretary, and signed by the chairman of the committee.

11. Any of the committees may ask a conference with one or both of the other committees, in order to judge of papers, which treat of mixed subjects.

12. Any fellow who chuses to attend shall have an equal right to vote or deliver his sentiments with those who are appointed of the committee.

C H A P T E R XI.

Of the Ordinary Meetings of the Society.

1. The society shall meet on every alternate Tuesday, at the hour of seven in the evening.

2. The book of regulations shall lie on the table before the president at all meetings.

3. When six fellows shall be present, they may proceed to business; except in those particular cases in which the presence of a greater number is required by the regulations.

4. Business shall begin by reading the list of visitors, and afterwards the minutes of the preceding meeting: but no part of these minutes shall be discussed until the whole has been read over.

5. Such parts of the minutes as shall not be objected to on the second reading of them, article by article, shall stand confirmed, and be subscribed by the president.

6. The minutes of the council shall be read.

7. Recommendations of persons desirous of entering into the society shall be read, and a ballot shall be taken for those persons who have been proposed at the two preceding meetings.

8. Medical intelligence, or extracts of letters, may be laid before the society.

9. The minutes of the committees shall then be read if required, and such papers as have been by them referred to the consideration of the society.

10. No new business shall be entered on after the hour of nine.

CHAPTER XII.

Of the General Meetings.

1. There shall be two general meetings of the society every year, viz. the 18th of January and the 4th of June, for considering the state of the society, examining the books, settling the accounts, and for making such alteration in, and additions to the regulations of the society, as may be thought necessary.

2. At the first of these meetings shall be elected the officers, council and committees for the year ensuing. Any vacancies which may have happened on the list of fellows shall be filled. And a member shall be nominated to deliver the annual oration the succeeding year.

3. This election shall begin at one o'clock and close half an hour after two.

4. Afterwards there shall be delivered the oration on the best means of improving the science of medicine.

5. Any

5. Any member who shall be chosen to give the annual oration, may decline it within the space of one month after the election, on paying a fine of one guinea, and another shall be chosen in his room at the next ordinary meeting.

6. At the second meeting the honorary medals shall be conferred, according to the regulations specified by the society.

7. At these meetings the president shall request each member to deliver to the council, at the end of every month, or as often as may be convenient, an account of the disorders which have come under his notice, that a compleat history may be formed of the epidemic diseases of London.

8. No member shall be proposed, elected or admitted a member at either of these meetings.

C H A P T E R XIII.

Of the Gold Medal.

1. The society resolve to give a medal annually to the author of the best dissertation on a subject proposed by the society, for which the learned of all countries shall be invited as candidates.

2. No fellow or candidate of the society shall be capable of entering into competition for this prize.

3. Each dissertation shall be delivered to the secretary, written in a legible hand, in the Latin, English or French language, at least two months before the meeting for adjudging the medal.

4. With it shall be delivered a sealed packet, with some device on the outside, and within the author's name and designation.

5. The same device shall be put upon the dissertation, that the society may know how to address the successful candidate.

6. There shall be a committee appointed by the society for adjudging this medal, consisting of the council, to whom shall be joined such other members as the society shall think proper; and their sentence shall be final.

7. No paper with the name of the author affixed can be received, that the committee may decide upon the merits of each, without any knowledge of, or partiality for the author.

8. All the dissertations, the successful one excepted, shall be returned, if desired, with the packets unopened, containing the names of the authors.

C H A P T E R XIV.

Of the making and repealing of Regulations.

1. No new regulations shall be made, nor old ones repealed or altered, but at one of the two general meetings of the society. 2.

2. The making of new and altering of old regulations shall be proposed first in the council, and afterwards be read in the society, at least one month before the general meeting: they shall be hung up in the society's room until that time, when the question, whether such proposals be admitted or not, shall be determined by ballot.

3. If two-thirds of the fellows present ballot in favour of the proposed regulation, it shall be declared a law of the society.

CHAPTER XV.

Of Papers for Publication.

1. All papers which have been read twice in the society shall be afterwards referred to the consideration of the council, to whom the determination of all questions concerning the publication of papers shall be referred.

2. Every member of the council shall have each dissertation two days in his possession.

3. Any member, through whose neglect the papers are detained, during the circulation, longer than the specified time, shall pay one shilling for every six hours a paper is so kept.

4. After a paper shall have thus circulated among all the members of the council, letters shall be sent to them by the secretary, requesting

questing their attendance on the next night of meeting, to ballot for the same.

5. At this meeting the members present shall decide by ballot whether the paper shall be inserted in the manuscript books of the society.

6. If this question pass in the affirmative, all further proceedings with respect to it shall be stopt :

7. But if the question pass in the negative, the council shall at some subsequent meeting, notice of which shall be previously given to all its members, proceed to decide also by ballot, whether such paper shall be published.

8. If the decision be in favour of the paper, it shall stand for confirmation on the next night, when the determination shall be final.

9. No ballot shall be taken for the publication of any paper, unless five members of the council are present. A majority of the meeting shall determine whether it shall or shall not be published. If a majority of the council determine against the publication of a paper, no entry thereof shall be made in the minutes.

10. In judging of a paper for publication, the council shall have a power to call in to their assistance three other fellows of the society, who are considered as well skilled in
that

that particular branch of medicine, which is the subject of the paper.

11. They shall give their opinions, and their votes shall be received, as to that paper only, equally with any member of the council.

12. If any member desire that the paper may be read previous to the ballot, it shall be complied with.

13. If on the ballot the number of votes for and against a paper be equal, the consideration of it shall be adjourned to a future day; and if the votes be equal the second time, the paper shall be rejected.

14. No paper shall be taken out of the possession of the secretary, after it has been approved of for publication, nor shall any alterations be made in it, without the permission of the council. These alterations shall also go through the same form of ballot as the original paper; and if considerable, must likewise be circulated among the members.

15. No member of the council shall vote, or be present when the propriety of publishing any of his own papers is agitated.

16. The annual oration alone shall be exempt from this mode.

17. If any motion be made and seconded, for referring it to the consideration of the council, a meeting of the council shall be called by special summonses; where, after it shall

shall have been circulated as speedily as possible, it shall be read over deliberately, and if five members be present, a ballot shall be taken, concerning the propriety of printing it. If the majority be in its favour, it must stand over for confirmation to the next meeting of the society.

18. The member who delivers the oration shall not be present at this meeting of the council, or society.

19. Each member of the society, who is not in arrear six months, shall receive gratis from the librarian, one copy of such memoirs, as may be published from time to time, during his continuance in the society.

CHAPTER XVI.

Of Benefactions to the Society.

Every person who shall present any valuable gift to the society shall receive their thanks, and have his name registered in the catalogue of benefactors, with an account of his donation.

CHAPTER XVII.

Of Visitors.

1. Each member shall have the privilege of introducing two visitors at any ordinary meeting of the society.

2. Their names shall be entered in the visitors list, and they shall be introduced into the council-chamber till the minutes of the former meeting have been read and discussed.

3. They shall then be introduced into the society; but no visitors shall be afterwards admitted without a particular order from the president.

4. No persons, except members of the society, can be admitted to hear the annual oration without a written permission from the president.

CHAPTER XVIII.

General Laws.

1. No member shall vote by proxy.

2. All questions, except those already specified, shall be determined by the majority of the fellows present.

3. No

3. No question shall be put on any motion, unless the motion be seconded.

4. No resolution, except those already mentioned, shall be valid, until it shall have been approved of at two meetings.

5. When the determination of the society is required on a question, it shall be in the power of any fellow to demand that it shall be taken by ballot.

6. No resolutions which may be made at any meeting of the society shall be valid, unless six fellows be present.

7. All fines shall be paid to the treasurer, and applied to the general use of the society.

8. Any person who intends to speak in the society, shall rise up and address himself to the president.

9. When two or more offer to speak at the same time, the president shall determine which of them shall deliver his sentiments first.

10. On a motion being made and seconded, any fellow may demand the sense of the society being previously taken whether such question shall be put.

11. All matters of complaint shall first be laid before the council, who shall bring such

such only, as they cannot adjust, before the society.

12. No member shall speak more than twice upon any subject under consideration, until all the members present, who are inclined to speak, shall have delivered their sentiments.

F I N I S.

